



Maj Gen Earnest O. Robbins II



## **Are you ready for a Graduate Degree?** Graduate Education sponsored by the Air Force is a Win-Win Situation

Each year an exceptional opportunity arises for 30 or more of our best lieutenants and captains — the chance to receive an Air Force sponsored graduate degree. For those who take advantage of this opportunity, the benefits to themselves and to the Air Force are many.

The program at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) provides officers with an excellent education and a respected degree in the area of Engineering Management or Environmental Management, provided through AFIT's in-residence Graduate Engineering and Environmental Management (GEEM) program. A few officers each year are eligible to pursue advanced degrees at civilian universities.

This year alone, 33 officers (including two majors) will earn an Air Force-funded Master's Degree. The Class of 02 commenced in August with 23 Civil Engineer officers attending AFIT's in-residence GEEM program at Wright-Patterson AFB and another 10 attending civilian institutions across the country.

AFIT leads the way in meeting the education needs of our Air Force and the Department of Defense. We are fortunate to have at our disposal a fully accredited, balanced graduate program that mirrors the support we need in the civil engineer career field. GEEM graduates are recognized as having an exceptional educational background ideally suited for future duties at the installation and MAJCOM, Air Force and DoD levels and in each CE core competency. A recent accreditation review team of scholars who evaluated AFIT's degree programs came away very impressed by what they saw, describing the graduate school's focused military-interest programs as "a credit to the nation."

It is important that we in civil engineering, along with the remainder of the Air Force, maintain a corps of leaders who are prepared to employ our Service's changing scientific and technical capabilities. Many GEEM graduates have gone on to hold some of the most senior leadership positions in Air Force civil engineering. The selection process for the Class of 03 will begin soon and I encourage those of you with excellent academic and military performance to step up to the challenge.

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